

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, July 28, 2022** – 3 pages

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Kelly Kearney, Vice Chairman at Simsbury Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included, Lori Coppinger, Christine Boswell, Rachel Wellman, Liz Keppel, and Tim Walczak. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski and Board of Selectman Liaison, Chris Petersen (via Zoom) were also in attendance.

Public Session:

None.

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Member Comments

No comments.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Kearney declared the June 23, 2022 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

New Business

2022 Winter Ice Rink and Paddle Tennis Fee Schedule – Mr. Tyburski shared the proposed rink and paddle tennis fees. Mr. Tyburski shared that the reasons for the proposed increases are due to minimum wage increases, contractual costs for full time employees and other increased costs (supplies, fuel, etc). The proposed fee schedule is estimate to generate \$7,280 in additional revenue. The proposed fees include increases of \$5 for a family season pass, \$3 for individual season pass, \$10 increase for learn to skate, \$25 increase for prime-time rental for residents and \$20 for non-prime time rental for residents. The non-resident rental increase is proposed at a \$20 increase. The season rate for paddle tennis is proposed to increase \$50.

Ms. Boswell commented that a \$50 increase seems very high for the Paddle Tennis season rate.

Ms. Keppel stated that while it costs more to run the hockey rink v. paddle tennis, more people can utilize rink vs. the paddle tennis courts. She stated that ISCC and Westminster have much higher rates.

Ms. Boswell stated that as a user, she felt that it would be better to increase it \$25 this year, as it would be absorbed by people a lot better.

Mr. Tyburski shared comparable town rates. Ms. Coppinger asked what if they raise it \$50 this year then what happens next year. Mr. Tyburski stated that they would reevaluate it again next year. Ms. Coppinger suggested dropping the proposed increase to \$40 instead of \$50.

Mr. Walczak stated that he understands the contracted salary/minimum wage increases and thinks having a buffer there is a great idea.

Ms. Boswell made a motion to approve the ice rink and paddle tennis fee schedule as presented with adjusting the paddle tennis season rate from \$600 to \$625 for eves and day rates from \$400 to \$425. Ms. Keppel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor and Ms. Wellman opposed.

Old Business

Friends of Simsbury Farms Family Day Update – Mr. Tyburski thanked Mr. Wetjen for all his hard work on this event and thanked Ms. Coppinger and Ms. Wellman for volunteering. Mr. Tyburski shared that there would be tennis clinics in a.m., youth basketball clinics, afternoon pool activities, an organized rock hunt, Simsbury Open Golf Tournament, a parent/child golf tournament, a band at night, and the Hilltop food truck by the pool. He stated that the Friends have done a great job about getting the word out about the event. Mr. Kearney shared that Mr. Tyburski has been really helpful with phone calls and visits and thanked him.

Mr. Kearney shared bookmarks with the Commission that support Simsbury Farms, to encourage people to be a friend and to get the word out about the non-profit.

Simsbury Farms 50th Anniversary Events Update- Mr. Tyburski shared that they will be showing Caddyshack on the course, this will be an adult only event. The flyer will be put on social media tomorrow, there will be a themed menu from the restaurant, and they will have popcorn and snacks during the movie as well. On August 12th, they will also be featuring a dive-in movie at the pool (Finding Nemo). Simsbury Library has partner with them on this event to keep the costs down. The last event will be on 8/27, this event will have inflatables, a band and fireworks. He also shared that since the last meeting they have done a couple fun runs and last weekend was a pickle ball tournament with 46 people participating.

Simsbury Farms Playground Renovation Subcommittee – Mr. Tyburski shared that he met Mr. Walczak, Ms. Wellman and Ms. Keppel at the playground, they walked the playground and discussed possible changes. He also met with Diana Yeisley from the Aging Disability Commission to discuss how to have it as accessible as possible. Mr. Tyburski stated that he provided links to online catalogs to the subcommittee and they are in the phase of everyone telling him what they like. They are still on time to have their first meetings early August before teachers go back to school.

Mr. Kearney asked what the installation timeline is for this project. Mr. Tyburski stated Spring 2023.

Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update- - Mr. Tyburski shared that the playground at West Mountain will be installed next week with wood chips put in week after. It should be open 8/12. The fitness trail work is just about done, new directional signs are in, new station signs in and some of the worn out lumber has been replaced. The new welcome sign will be installed tomorrow.

Mr. Kearney stated that he would love to have some photos of the work being done.

Mr. Tyburski agreed and also stated that the new Program Coordinator is upping their social media presence.

Mr. Tyburski reported that he is updating the Open Space website making it more of a resource page.

Ms. Coppinger asked if there have been any problems with people dumping lawn debris on the fitness trail. Mr. Tyburski stated in the past there have been issues and they have sent letters, they may need to put more signage out.

Mr. Tyburski shared that there is no August meeting and he would like to move the September meeting to 9/29 instead of 9/15.

Adjourn

Mr. Walczak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be September 29, 2022 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor,
Commission Clerk

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